

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 TAR-01 STR-04 /083 W

----- 017410

R 240623Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5724

INFO USDEL GENEVA

UNCLAS TOKYO 18223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: ALLEGED JAPANESE RESTRICTION OF FOREIGN RACE HORSES

REF: STATE 295847

1. IT IS TRUE THAT NUMBER OF RACES IN WHICH "FOREIGN-BRED HORSES" CAN PARTICIPATE ARE LIMITED TO ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF ALL RACES CONDUCTED BY THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA). AS NOTED IN REF PARA 2, SUCH LIMITATION IS ESTABLISHED PRIMARILY TO PRECLUDE SUPERIOR "FOREIGN-BRED HORSES" FROM WINNING LARGE SHARES OF JAPANESE PURSES. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REGULATION WHICH LIMITS Winnings TO FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PURSE.

2. "FOREIGN-BRED HORSES" AS DEFINED BY THE ASSOCIATION AND ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THESE RACES ARE ONLY THOSE 1) HORSES WHICH HAVE NEVER RUN IN A RACE IN ANY FOREIGN AND/OR 2) FOALS BORN IN JAPAN FROM IN-FOAL BROODAMARES IMPORTED FROM ABROAD.

3. ALL HORSES, INCLUDING "FOREIGN-BRED HORSES" MUST BE REGISTERED WITH ASSOCIATION BEFORE THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN RACES. ONLY HORSE OWNERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF JAPAN CAN APPLY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF RACE HORSES.

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FURTHERMORE, HOUSES ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH REGISTRATION

MUST BE EITHER "HOME-BRED" HORSES OR THOSE DEFINED IN
PARA 2 ABOVE. THIS MEANS IN EFFECT ALOST NO RPT NO RACING
HORSES OF FOREIGN COUNTRY CAN PARTICIPATE IN RACES IN JAPAN.

4. RE REF PARA 4 (A) DUTY OF YEN 4,000,000 LEVIED ON
ALL RACE HORSES TEMPORARILY IMPORTED INTO JAPAN FOR
PURPOSE OF RACING IN JAPAN. RE REF PARA 4(B) IF FOREIGN
JOCKEY WINS PORTION OF PURSE, THEN JRA ARRANGES WITH
BANK OF JAPAN FOR CONVERSION OF YEN PROCEEDS TO DOLLARS.
RACE SPONSORS WHO ARE NONRESIDENTS ARE TREATED IN THE
SAME MANNER AS TOURISTS I.E., ALLOWED TO CONVERT YEN UP
TO DOLLARS 1,000 PER PERSON DURING THEIR STAY IN JAPAN.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HORSES, IMPORTS, POLICIES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO18223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750446-0663
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaalfh.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 295847
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED JAPANESE RESTRICTION OF FOREIGN RACE HORSES
TAGS: ETRD, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006